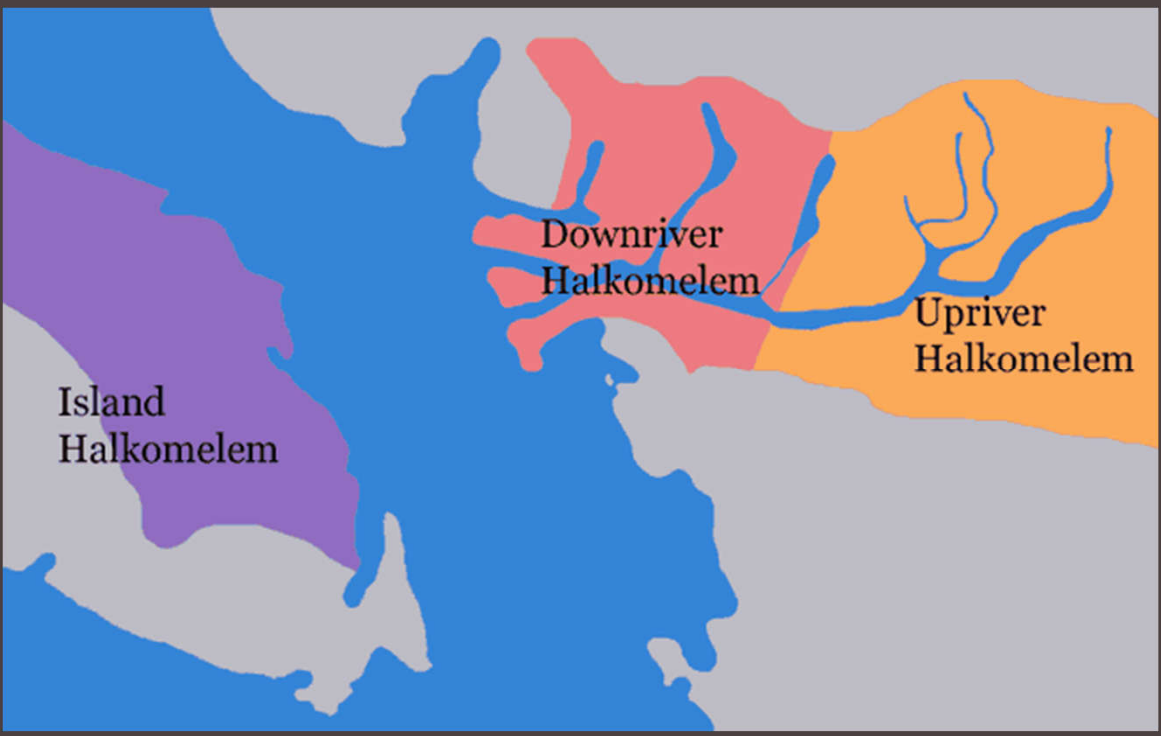




Hul'q'umi'num' Salish colour terminology

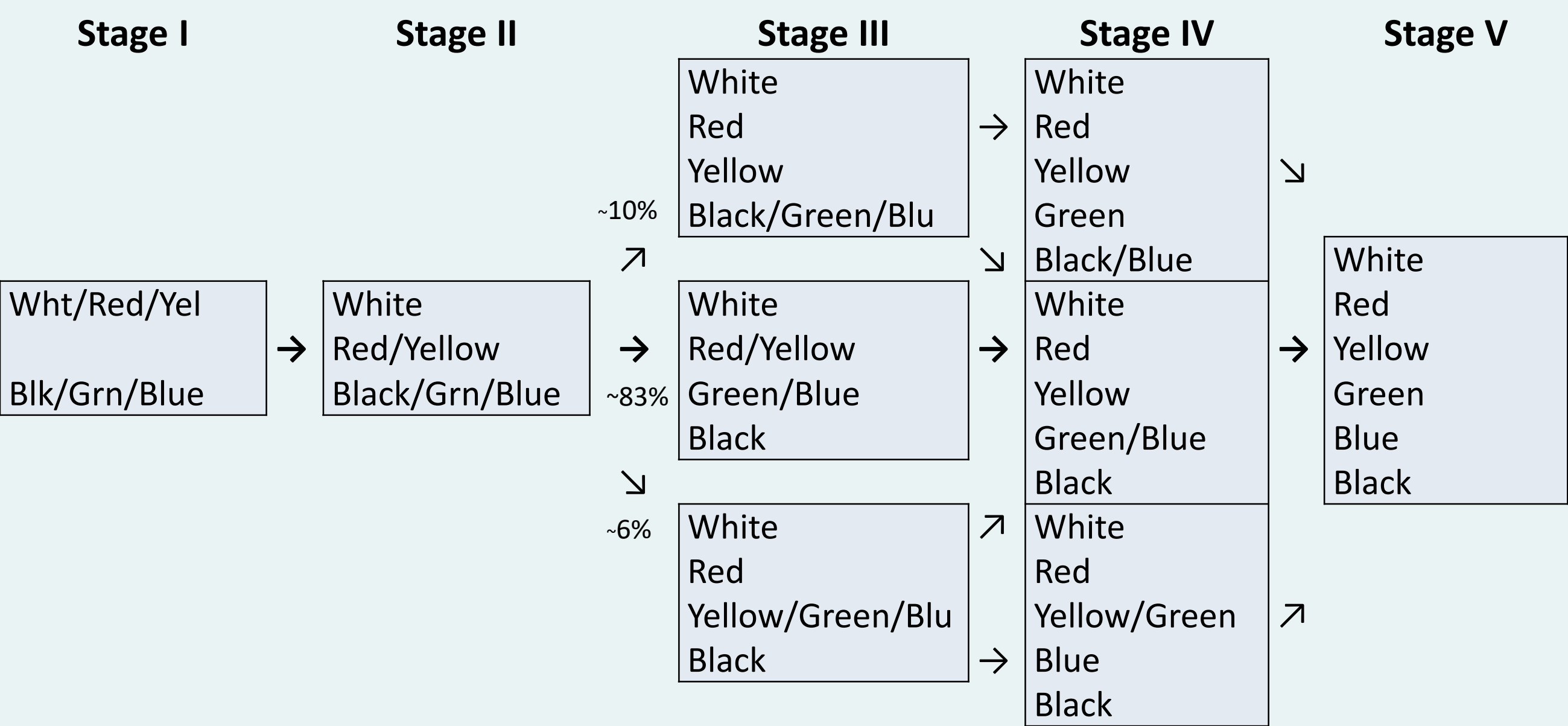
Lauren Schneider | leschnei@sfu.ca



Background

Colour terminology in the world's languages

- Basic colour terms
- 1. Monolexemic
- 2. Do not share signification with another color term
- 3. Not restricted to a narrow class of objects
- 4. Psychologically salient



Hul'q'umi'num'

- Hul'q'umi'num' is the Island dialect of Halkomelem, a Central Salish language.

Prior Research on Colour terms in Halkomelem

Tait	Chehalis	Chilliwack	Sumas	Cowichan	Gloss
c-q'ix	c-q'ix	c-q'ix	c-q'ix	c-q'ix	'black'
p-aq	p-aq	p-aq	p-aq	p-aq	'white'
c-k'wim	c-k'wim	c-k'wim	c-k'wim	c-k'wim	'red'
c-q'w'e-y	c-q'w'e-y	c-q'w'e-y	c-q'w'e-y	c-q'w'ay	'green/yellow' or 'blue/green'
c-maθ	c-maθ	c-maθ	c-maθ		'blue'
c-q'w'ix'w		c-q'w'ix'w	c-q'w'ix'w		'brown'
c-x'w'ik'w	c-x'w'ik'w	c-x'w'ik'w	c-x'w'ik'w	c-x'w'ik'w	'grey'

(MacLaury & Galloway 1988)

Morphosyntax of Halkomelem colour words

- Color terms are adjectival verbs.
- Color terms can be inflected for stative (be red), inceptive (get/turn red).

c=k'w'i'm=əl
is=red=get
'get/turn/become red'

- They can additionally be inflected for continuative aspect (being red, getting/turning red) and with diminutives (being a little red, getting/turning a little red).

skwekwikwemel
s=C₁ə=k'w'i'j[=C₁ə=]m=əl
'be getting/going a little red'

(Galloway 2007)

Colour terms in Hul'q'umi'num'

Basic colour terms		Derived colour terms:	
p'uq'	white (light-coloured)	koulalus	gold coloured
tsq'ix	black (dark-coloured)	kwimulus	pink coloured
tskwim	red	kwulalu'alus	orange (alder coloured)
tsqway	green/blue	tumlhalus	brown (ochre coloured)
ts-hwikw'	grey	luluts'alus	yellow coloured
		saxwulalus	green (grass coloured)
		shkwitth'tsalus	blue (Stellar's) jay coloured
		tth'atth'uhwum'	purple

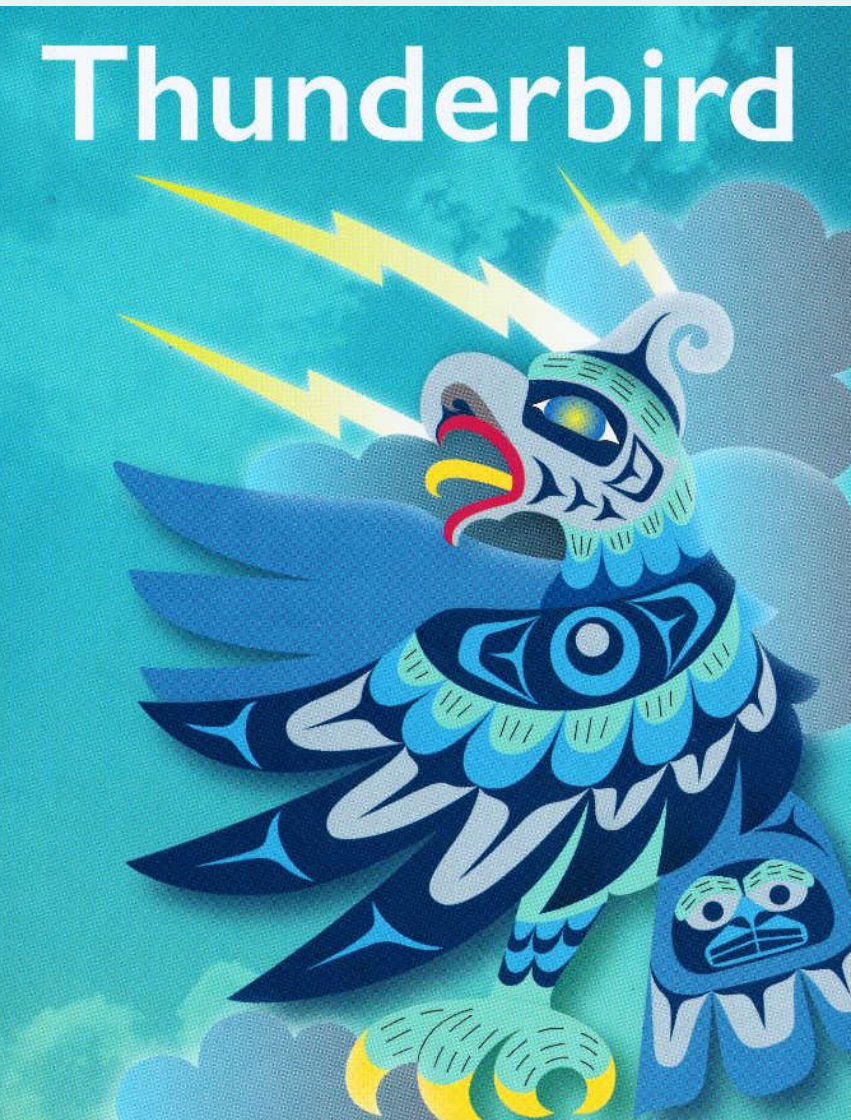
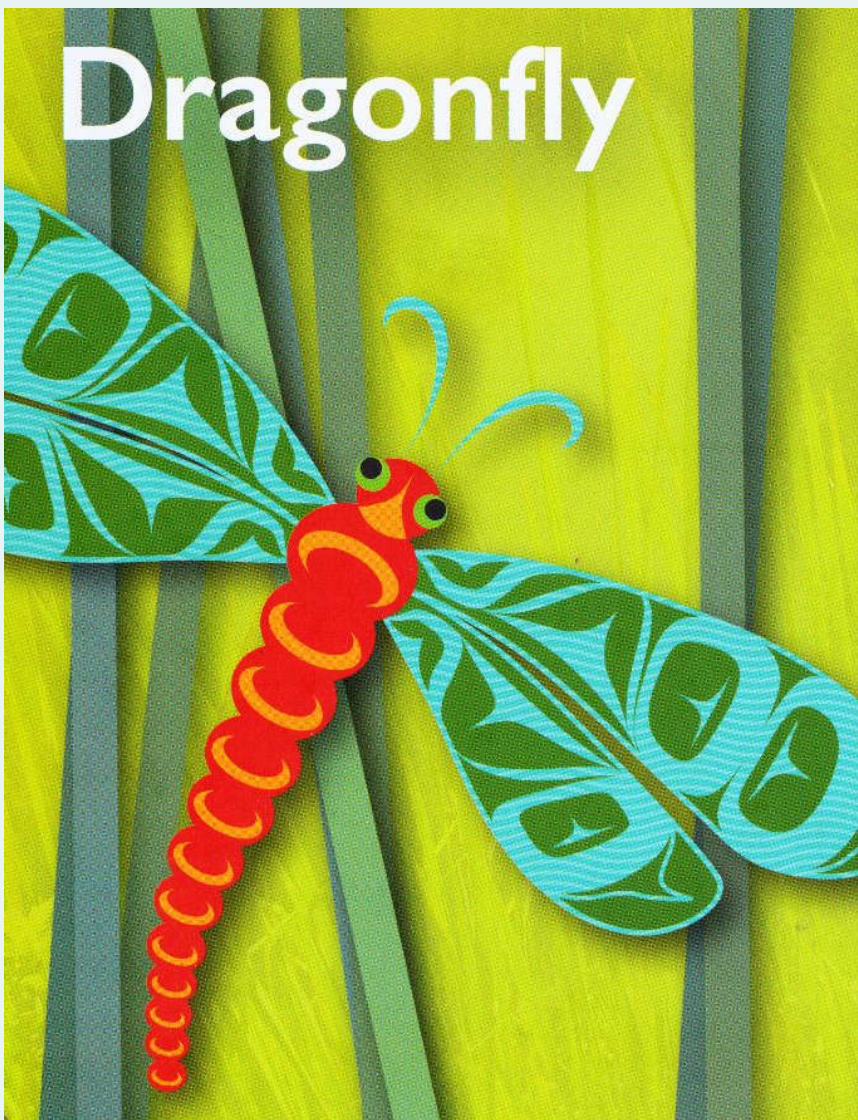
Where is tsqway?

On the dragonfly?

tsqway
his wings
what's circling his eye
the two antennae
bullrushes

tsq'xalus tsqway
the darker bulrush

p'q'alus tsqway
the ground
the markings on his wings



On the seal?

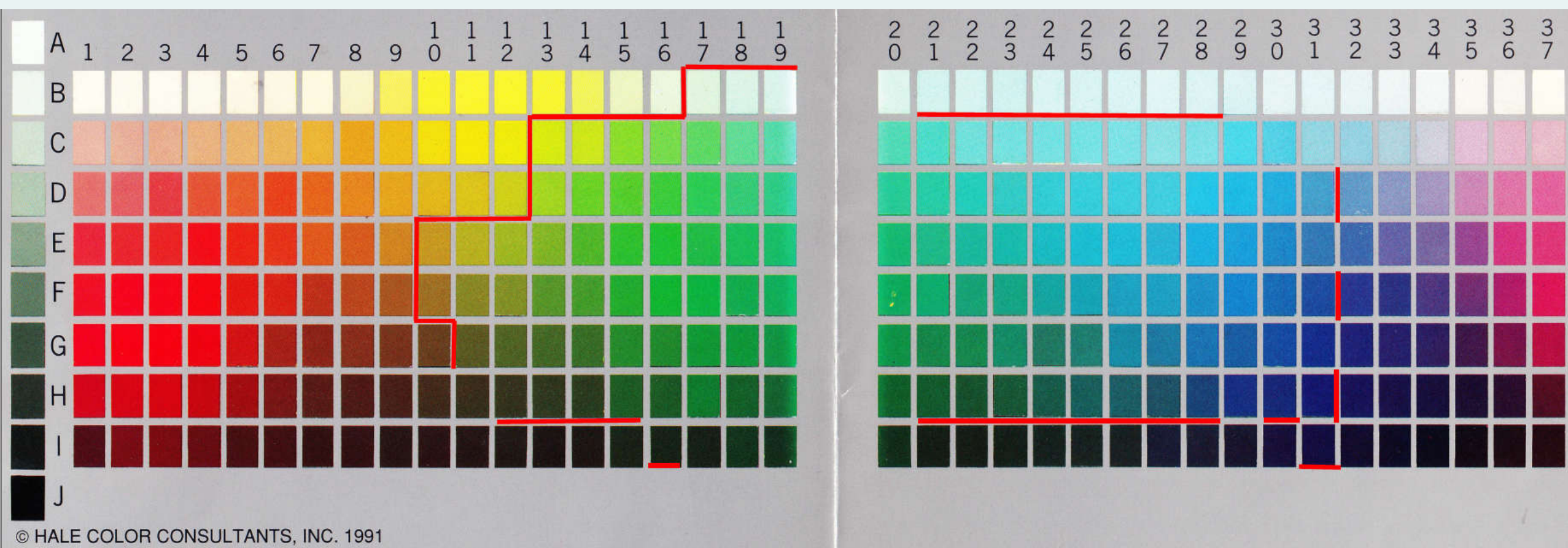
the plant
the ocean water
his mouth

The seal:
qwaqwi'ula'lus

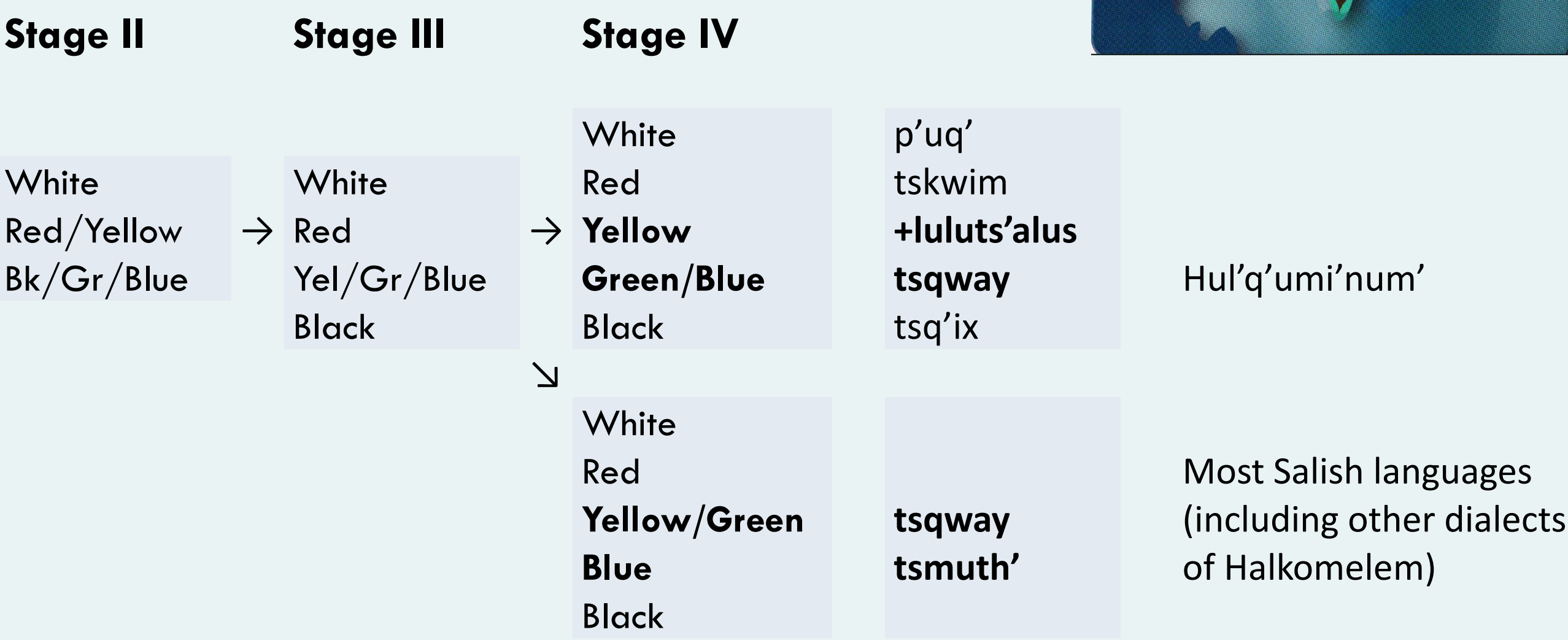
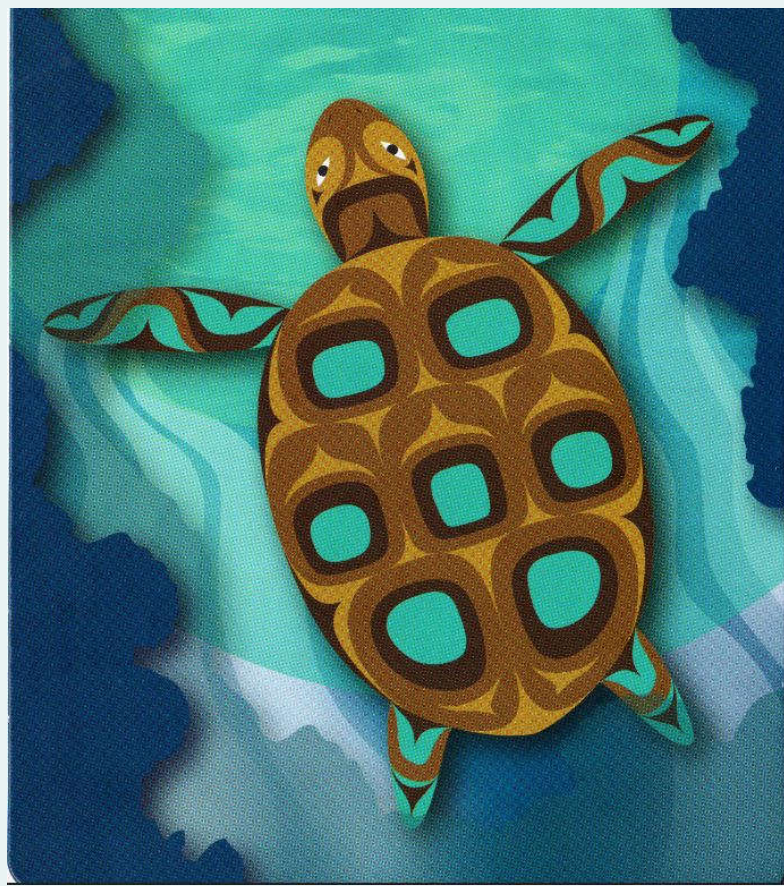


On the thunderbird?

Everything except his
mouth, tongue, the
lightening, and his
talons).



Basic colour evolution in Hul'q'umi'num'



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